

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 17 - (CANCELLED)

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for curing a coating on an optical fiber, comprising:

an optical fiber draw tower along which an optical fiber is drawn, comprising:
a coating die, through which said optical fiber passes to receive a coating; and
a curing device located downstream from said coating die to cure said coating, and
at least one ultrasonic transducer emitting ultrasound and coupled to said draw tower,
wherein curing of said coating is at least partially effected by said ultrasound, and
wherein said curing device comprises a UV radiation emitting device.

19. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer is coupled to at least one of said coating die and said curing device.

20. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, having at least two ultrasonic transducers, wherein both of said coating die and said curing device are coupled to at least one of said at least two ultrasonic transducers.

21. (CANCELLED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, wherein said curing device comprises said UV radiation emitting device and said at least one ultrasonic transducer, and wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses.

23. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses.

24. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.

25. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer is coupled to said draw tower upstream of at least one of said coating die and said curing device.

26. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer is coupled to said draw tower downstream of at least one of said coating die and said curing device.

27. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer makes contact with said coating.
28. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, having at least two ultrasonic transducers both of which make contact with said coating.
29. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus claimed in claim 18, wherein said at least one transducer is located downstream of said curing device and makes contact with said coating.
30. (CANCELLED)
31. (CANCELLED)
32. (CANCELLED)
33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for curing a coating on an optical fiber, comprising:
an optical fiber draw tower along which an optical fiber is drawn, comprising:
a coating die, through which said optical fiber passes to receive a coating; and
a curing device located downstream from said coating die to cure said coating, and

at least two ultrasonic transducers emitting ultrasound and coupled to said draw tower,
wherein curing of said coating is at least partially effected by said ultrasound, and
wherein both of said coating die and said curing device are coupled to at least one of said
at least two ultrasonic transducers.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 33, wherein said curing device comprises a UV radiation emitting device.

35 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 33, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for curing a coating on an optical fiber, comprising:
an optical fiber draw tower along which an optical fiber is drawn, comprising:
a coating die, through which said optical fiber passes to receive a coating; and
a curing device located downstream from said coating die to cure said coating,
wherein said curing device comprises a UV radiation emitting device and at least one
ultrasonic transducer which emits ultrasound, and
~~at least one ultrasonic transducer emitting ultrasound and coupled to said draw tower,~~
wherein curing of said coating is at least partially effected by said ultrasound, ~~and~~
~~wherein said curing device comprises a UV radiation emitting device and said at least one~~
~~ultrasonic transducer.~~

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 36, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for curing a coating on an optical fiber, comprising:

 an optical fiber draw tower along which an optical fiber is drawn, comprising:
 a coating die, through which said optical fiber passes to receive a coating; and
 a curing device located downstream from said coating die to cure said coating, and
 at least one ultrasonic transducer emitting ultrasound and coupled to said draw tower,
 wherein curing of said coating is at least partially effected by said ultrasound, and
 wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses.

39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus claimed in claim 38, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses and wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for curing a coating on an optical fiber, comprising:

 an optical fiber draw tower along which an optical fiber is drawn, comprising:
 a coating die, through which said optical fiber passes to receive a coating; and

a curing device located downstream from said coating die to cure said coating, and
at least one ultrasonic transducer emitting ultrasound and coupled to said draw tower,
wherein curing of said coating is at least partially effected by said ultrasound, and
wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer is coupled to said draw tower downstream
of at least one of said coating die and said curing device.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for curing a coating on an optical fiber,
comprising:

an optical fiber draw tower along which an optical fiber is drawn, comprising:
a coating die, through which said optical fiber passes to receive a coating; and
a curing device located downstream from said coating die to cure said coating, and
at least one ultrasonic transducer emitting ultrasound and coupled to said draw tower,
wherein curing of said coating is at least partially effected by said ultrasound, and
wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer makes contact with said coating.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for curing a coating on an optical fiber,
comprising:

an optical fiber draw tower along which an optical fiber is drawn, comprising:
a coating die, through which said optical fiber passes to receive a coating; and
a curing device located downstream from said coating die to cure said coating, and

at least two ultrasonic transducers emitting ultrasound and coupled to said draw tower,
wherein curing of said coating is at least partially effected by said ultrasound, and
wherein both of said at least two transducers make contact with said coating.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for curing a coating on an optical fiber,
comprising:

an optical fiber draw tower along which an optical fiber is drawn, comprising:
a coating die, through which said optical fiber passes to receive a coating; and
a curing device located downstream from said coating die to cure said coating, and
at least one ultrasonic transducer emitting ultrasound and coupled to said draw tower,
wherein curing of said coating is at least partially effected by said ultrasound, and
wherein said at least one transducer is located downstream of said curing device and
makes contact with said coating.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 40, wherein said at least
one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 41, wherein said at least
one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 42, wherein at least one of said at least two ultrasonic transducers emits ultrasound in pulses.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 43, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits ultrasound in pulses.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 33, wherein at least one of said ultrasonic transducers emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 36, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 38, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 40, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 41, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 42, wherein at least one of said ultrasonic transducers emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus claimed in claim 43, wherein said at least one ultrasonic transducer emits a frequency in the range of 2^4 to 10^9 Hz.